

CLAIMS

I claim:

*Duvaly* 1. A method of preparing an air bag module for final process positioning comprising the steps of:

providing an air bag module, the air bag module having unformed locating features for guiding the air bag module into a mountable position on a vehicle component, and shaping the unformed locating features to a predetermined size.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the air bag module includes a base, and wherein the unformed locating features comprise at least three locating features extending from the base.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the locating features comprise posts, and the shaping step further comprises the step of shaping projections out of the distal ends of at least two of the at least three posts.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the locating features comprise receptors, and wherein the shaping step further comprises the step of shaping apertures in at least two of the at least three receptors.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein the shaping step comprises thermoforming.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the air bag module comprises an air bag module for a floating horn system.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined size is configured to reduce a variation of an installed position of the air bag module relative to a desired position of the air bag module.

8. A method of preparing an air bag module vehicle support for final process positioning comprising the steps of:

      providing a vehicle support, the vehicle support having a set of unformed locating features for guiding an air bag module into a mountable position on the vehicle support; and

      shaping the set of unformed locating features to a predetermined size.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the locating features comprise at least three features extending from the vehicle support.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the locating features comprise receptors, and wherein the shaping step further comprises the step of shaping apertures in at least two of the at least three receptors.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the locating features comprise posts, and the shaping step further comprises the step of shaping projections out of the distal ends of at least two of the at least three posts.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein the shaping step comprises thermoforming.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein the vehicle support comprises a steering wheel.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the steering wheel comprises a steering wheel for a floating horn system.

15. The method of claim 8 wherein the predetermined size is configured to reduce a variation of an installed position of the air bag module relative to a desired position of the air bag module.

16. A method of preparing an air bag module and a vehicle support for final process positioning comprising the steps of:

5 providing an air bag module, the air bag module having a first set of unformed locating features for guiding the air bag module into a mountable position on a vehicle support;

shaping the first set of locating features to a predetermined size;

10 providing a vehicle support, the vehicle support having a second set of unformed locating features for guiding the air bag module into a mountable position on the vehicle support; and

shaping the second set of unformed locating features to a predetermined size.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the first set of locating features is engageable with the second set of locating features.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the air bag module includes a base, and the first set of unformed locating features comprise at least three locating features extending from the base; and wherein the second set of unformed locating features comprise at least three locating features extending from the vehicle support.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the first set of unformed locating features comprise posts, the shaping of the first set of unformed locating features comprise the step of shaping projections out of the distal ends of at least two of 5 the at least three posts; and wherein the second set of unformed locating features comprise receptors, and wherein the shaping of the second set of unformed locating features comprise the step of shaping apertures in at least two of the at least three receptors.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the first set of unformed locating features comprise receptors, the shaping of the first set of unformed locating features comprise the step of shaping apertures in at least two of the at least three receptors; and wherein the second set of unformed locating features comprise posts, and wherein the shaping the second set of unformed locating features comprise the step of shaping projections out of the distal ends of at least two of the at least three posts.

21. The method of claim 16 wherein the shaping of the first set of unformed locating features and the shaping of the second set of unformed locating features comprises thermoforming.

22. The method of claim 16 wherein the vehicle support comprises a steering wheel.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the air bag module and steering wheel comprise an air bag module and steering wheel for a floating horn system.

24. The method of claim 16 wherein the predetermined size is configured to reduce a variation of an installed position of the air bag module relative to a desired position of the air bag module.

25. The method of claim 16 wherein the predetermined size of the first set of locating features and the predetermined size of the second set of locating features are configured to provide a uniform distance in at least one dimension between the air bag module and the vehicle support when the air bag module is secured to the vehicle support.

*and any*